



**Meeting:** April 13, 2024

**Attendees:** 34 members, 2 guests

**Time:** 9:04AM

**Chair:** Jim Mencum, President



## **Business:**

Jim reported that it's been a long time since a live demonstration. Earl has fabricated a new camera cable which was ruined during storage. Our baseball bat source has been acquired and there will be no more. The March Board meeting was largely occupied with the Gulf Breeze Art festival.

The Gulf Breeze was on March 23 and 24th. Dick and Ralph thanked all the members that donated time and those that donated items. The festival was financially very successful. They earned over \$2000 during the silent auction.

The Pensacola Maker's Faire will be in November and we'll need help for it.

This month's will be on off-center turning by Mike Francis. Mike was past President of Azalea Woodturners. Mike is a new member, too.

Bruce mentioned that he'd be happy to include a member's for sale items and notifications in the meeting minutes that will be sent to the entire membership.

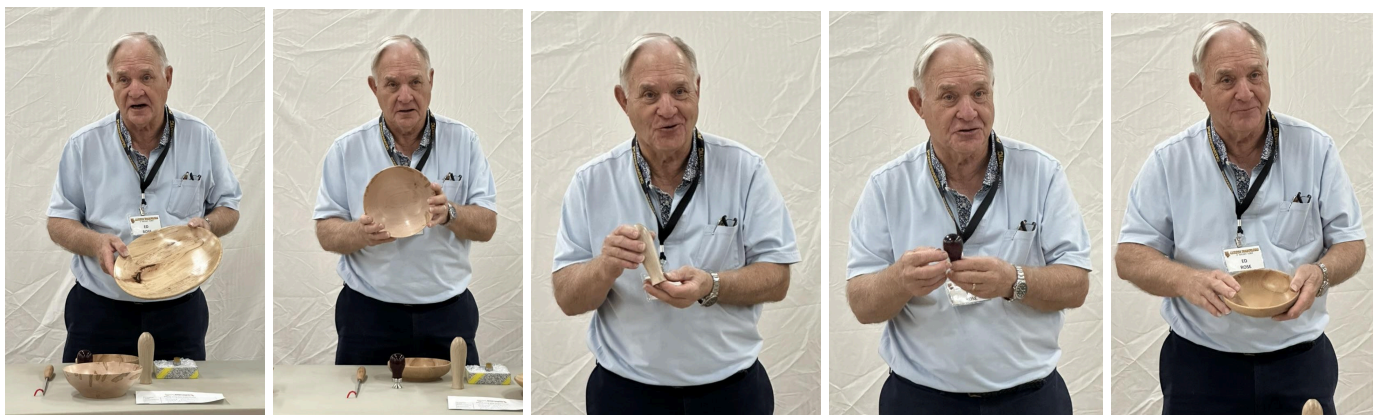
# Show and Tell



**Bruce Pelton:** Showed his first bowls. Ed Rose has been guiding him and teaching all the major how-to's.

**Alex Webster:** Picked up downed wood after Hurricane Sally. A chunk of Cherry yielded this beautiful bowl. It was finished with Hennessy Oil Finish. Total time was about 4 hours.

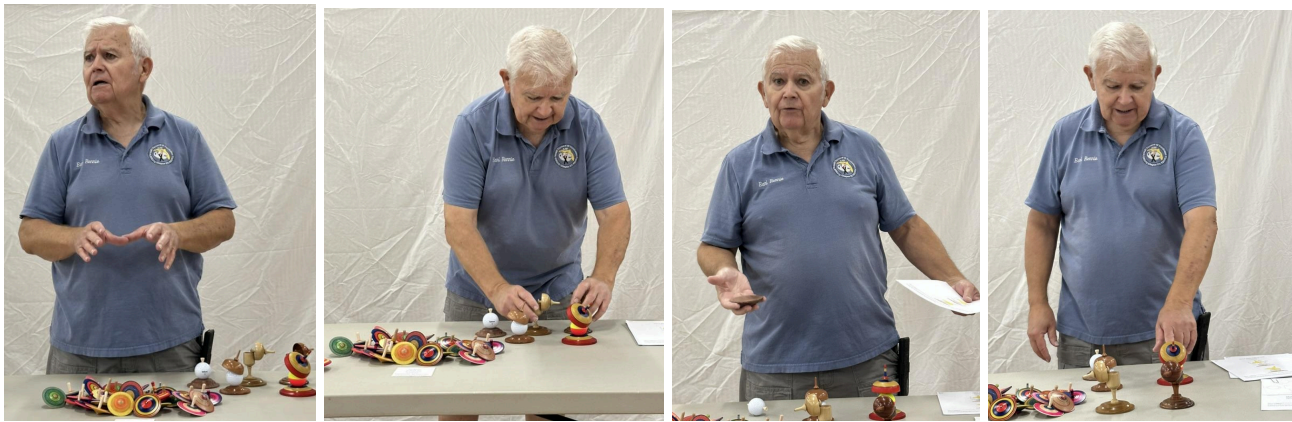
**Mike Francis:** Showed the off-center birds that we will see in the demo. The Black Walnut and Sea Urchin turning. He hardens the Sea Urchins with Mod Podge water based glue.



**Ed Rose:** The first bowl was made of Hickory. Ed said that Hickory is much softer than expected and turns well. The next was a weed pot made from Ambrosia Maple (infected by the Ambrosia Beetle). The bottle opener was made from Purple Heart. The little bowl was from a found piece of Cherry. It's in process.



**Nathan McCollim:** A pepper mill from wood and epoxy. The epoxy blew out and he had to move to a carbide negative rake tool. He puts a lip on the top to keep it aligned. The bulb is finished with UV pigment.



**Earl Rennie:** Showed 30 tops that he has turned for a charity in Gulf Breeze. He showed us more of his balancing tops. He has revised the instructions which will be sent by email and posted on our website. He encouraged all to produce additional tops for club demos and giveaways.



## Auction

Ed Rose and Jim Mencum teamed up on the auction while Steve and Sally counted the money coming into the club. The auction provides more funds for the club than any other source.

## Demonstration: Mike Francis- Off-Center Bird Turning



Mike saw items like this being turned with a special chuck setup. He figured out how to do it with a standard lathe setup. He sells these at various shows for \$30 or more. He showed us how to set up, tools he likes and the finishes he likes to use for them. He has fabricated a few tools and adopted ones that he initially hated and which are now favorites.



He has to have two flat ends so he parts off the far one. He then turns a tenon on the other. He marks centers and draws a line bisecting each end. He marks each end  $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the edge and dimples there.



He showed a gouge that he originally found out about from Mark Silay that he called a "suicide stick". He now loves it and uses it a lot. He keeps three or four sharpened for use. He also showed us Slick Stick lubricant for the ways and tool rest. Others use paraffin. He also uses a bar of  $\frac{3}{8}$ " square tool steel as a scraper to make tenons and hog out material. He sharpens both ends and swaps them as he works.



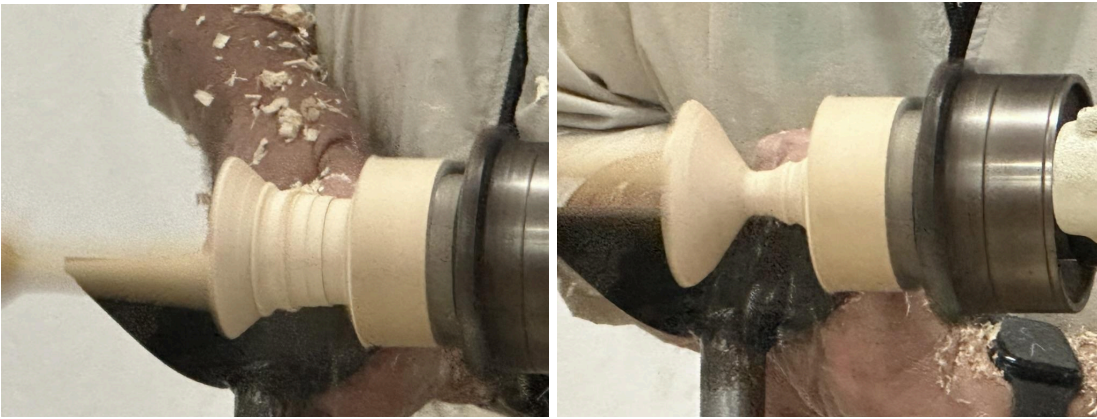
He mounts the dimples between the live center and spur drive and uses the bar to hog off material.



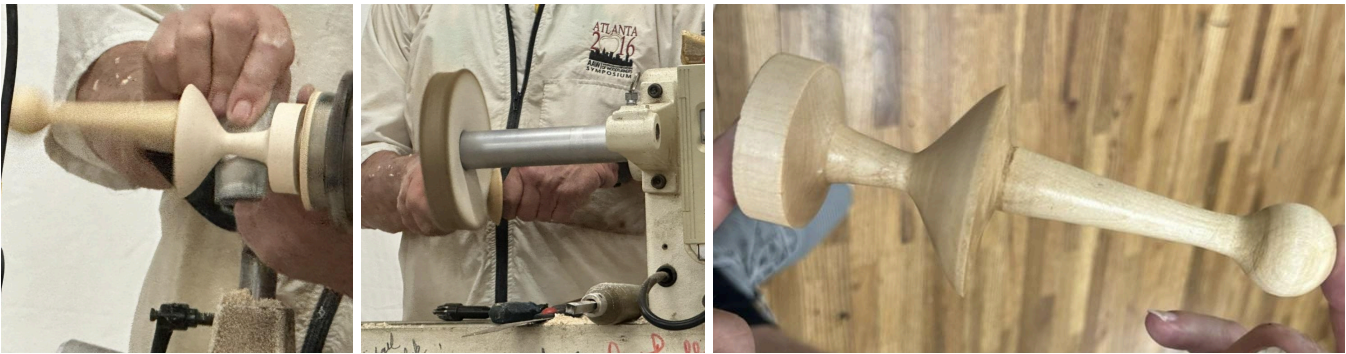
He thins out the neck and forms the head. Once they are formed he sands to 800 grit and then polishes with Dr. Kirk's Scratch Free Polishing Wax. Dr. Kirk's has a mix of abrasives and waxes. The abrasives break down into finer ones as you polish. He smears on a thin coat and polishes with a paper towel. He said that a paper towel is 3000 grit itself.



He parts off the head from the stub that was in the live center and hand sands and polishes it.



He then places the central tenon in the chuck and forms the body.



It is then sanded, parted off and polished.



The beak is formed, a hole drilled in the head and then it is glued into place.

### Sources:

**Mod Podge-** \$6.98 16oz. @ Amazon. Also at Michael's Craft Stores

**Slick Stick-** \$12.95 per stick + \$4.25 Shipping @ Wood Turners Wonders

**Dr. Kirk's Scratch Free-** \$6.95- 1.5 oz./\$19.95- 6 oz. + \$5.99 Shipping @ Craft Supplies. There are several versions. He uses the Woodturners Polishing Wax with the brown label.